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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/690,562	10/23/2003	Masahiro Ohashi	2003-1503A	6448

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WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021

EXAMINER

RAO, ANAND SHASHIKANT

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2621

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/28/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/690,562

Applicant(s)

OHASHI, MASAHIRO

Examiner

Andy S. Rao

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Akerib.

Akerib discloses an image-processing method (Akerib: figure 2), comprising: transferring image data to a storage unit (Akerib: column 14, lines 1-3), the image data being formed by several pieces of image data (Akerib: column 15, lines 40-50), the image data being separated from several lines of image data (Akerib: column 62, lines 43-60); sequentially reading out the several pieces of image data from said storage unit (Akerib: column 21, lines 30-50); and filtering target image data subject to filtering using predetermined pieces of the read image data (Akerib: column 35, lines 40-52), as in claim 1.

Akerib discloses an image-processing method (Akerib: figure 2) comprising: sequentially entering several pieces of image data (Akerib: column 21, lines 30-50) that are used to filter several pieces of target image data subject to filtering (Akerib: column 35, lines 40-52); shifting

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the sequentially entered several pieces of image data (Akerib: column 26, lines 35-47); parallel-feeding predetermined pieces of the shifted image data (Akerib: column 14, lines 15-17); and filtering the several pieces of target image data subject to filtering using the parallel-fed predetermined pieces of the shifted image data (Akerib: column 36, lines 40-67), as in claim 2.

Akerib discloses an image processor (Akerib: figure 3), comprising: a first storage unit operable to store image data formed by several pieces of image data (Akerib: column 14, lines 1-3), the image data being separated from several lines of image data (Akerib: column 15, lines 40-50); a data readout unit operable to sequentially read out the several pieces of image data stored by said first storage unit (Akerib: column 21, lines 30-50); a filtering unit operable to filter target image data subject to filtering using predetermined pieces of the image data that are read out from said data readout unit (Akerib: column 35, lines 40-52); a second storage unit operable to store the filtered target image data subject to filtering (Akerib: column 14, lines 35-45); and a data write unit operable to write the filtered target image data subject to filtering to said second storage unit (Akerib: column 14, lines 50-67), as in claim 3.

Regarding claim 4, Akerib discloses wherein said filtering unit comprises a data output control unit operable to feed the filtered target image data subject to filtering, but operable not to feed a predetermined piece of non-filtered image data in accordance with mode information (Akerib: column 2, lines 35-45), as in the claim.

Regarding claim 5, Akerib discloses wherein said filtering unit comprises a data output control unit operable to provide a countdown from an initial value each time when the image data is fed, the initial value being determined in accordance with the number of pixels to be processed, said data output control unit being operable to feed only a predetermined piece of

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non-filtered image data as well as filtered target image data subject to filtering in accordance with results from the countdown (Akerib: column 42, lines 10-42; column 32, lines 64-67; column 33, lines 1-5), as in the claim.

Regarding claim 6, Akerib discloses wherein said filtering unit comprises a image data-retaining unit operable to retain several pieces of image data for use at the time of next filtering, the several pieces of image data for use at the time of next filtering being selected from among the several pieces of image data read out by said data readout unit from said first storage unit (Akerib: column 62, lines 50-60), as in the claim.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Rovati discloses a coprocessor circuit architecture for digital encoding applications.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andy S. Rao whose telephone number is (571)-272-7337. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8 hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on (571)-272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Andy S. Rao
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2621

asr
February 23, 2007

~~ANDY RAO~~
PRIMARY EXAMINER